

Commission on Children and Youth  
Meeting Summary  
September 9, 2015

**Members Present:** Dana Bell, Adriane Clutter, Stuart Grossman, Carson Henry, Nancy Kaplan, Sareana Kimia, Dr. Angela Mickalide, Tami Niedomanski, Roberta Rinker, Bobbi Sherman, and Beka Urgessa

**Guest:** Dr. Barbara Andrews and Marva Younger (staff)

Dana Bell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Dr. Barbara Andrews introduced Marva Younger, new staff and followed by introduction of all members present.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **Reading and Approval of the May and June Meeting Minutes**

There was not a quorum at the June meeting to approve May's minutes. Dr. Angela Mickalide moved to accept the May minutes to be amended filling in the blanks (Nancy Dworkin Award "Food by \_\_\_\_\_ and Music by \_\_\_\_\_"), and the June minutes. It was seconded by Tami Niedomanski.

Dana Bell and Roberta Rinker will continue to serve as chair and co-chair, respectively. No one opposed them severing another term. Voted in by acclimation/Unanimous.

#### **Representation of Sub-Committee Meeting:**

Access to Mental Health – 2 members

Life Skills Training – 4 members

School Disciplinary/Suspension Policies – 2 members

Retreat – The annual retreat for planning 2015-2016 year will be held on Wednesday, October 14. New members will meet 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm for orientation with the chair and co-chair. The full Commission will meet 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Although new member may not yet be confirmed, they will still be invited to the orientation session. A total of 12 new members are expected representing -- 5 Agency members; 3 parents; and 4 youth members.

### **Committee Meetings and Reports/Full Commission Discussion**

Access to Mental Health -- The committee recommends as first priority to increase funding for mental health; simplify the process to search website for mental health services; advocate the inclusion of wellness centers in newly built or modernized middle and high schools; increase awareness of mental health by developing/updating a directory of services offered to young people and their families. Many of the services go unnoticed and/or the public is not aware of these services. It was noted that crisis center in the schools focus more on suicidal problems. The at-risk students have a hard time getting the help needed.

Life Skills Training--The committee recommended having a roundtable to focus on topics for needed life skills training for youth. It is believed that MCPS does a great job preparing students for college, however, those youth not attending college need life skills to enter the workforce. The committee will focus on the following life skills: *budgeting, cooking and kitchen safety, driving, home economics, making good choices, self-advocacy, job hunting, interviewing skills, how credit, loans and taxes work, tire changing, performing first aid and CPR*. Skills related to financial literacy are currently offered at MCPS. In addition, MCPS is creating a Financial Literacy Park with Edison Technical School that will be visited by 7<sup>th</sup> graders. It has been proposed to MCPS to create course "Life 101" for one semester. The committee will do further research to determine whether life skills could also become the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester course. Adding a health class for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester would round out the year with a life skill course. The health class would address the problem many student encounter scheduling this required class. It was learned that students at Wheaton High School developed a life skills curriculum as a project for Innovative Leadership class. The curriculum has been submitted to MSCP and was presented at this past summer's Curriculum Conference. The committee will continue to support and motivate Wheaton High School with this curriculum.

School Disciplinary/Suspension Policies -- The committee suggested having guest speakers (Luis Cardma, Elijah Wheeler) to present their initiative on school discipline policy. The discipline policy at MCPS should be reviewed and why Latino youth are labeled as Caucasians and what is the policy of sending students home to avoid suspension. There is also a need for parents to know their rights and responsibilities, particularly those who speak little or no English. Also, developing a bilingual "know your right" along with school discipline policy would be helpful. During the Voice Roundtable, the agenda for discussion should include student discipline policy and process used for decriminalizing marijuana. The committee also recommended creating an award for schools using positive development practices. This award may be added to the Nancy Dworkin Awards Ceremony. It was suggested that a School Resource Officer (SRO) must be trained on positive youth development, and ideally, having one stationed at each school. In addition, the committee recommended establishing a 1-year milestone to assess the type of suspension by cluster/region; grade level; and incident of students sent home rather than suspension.

### **Commission Business:**

HHS Director requested three bullet points to address prevention to be included in joint statement on prevention. Adriane Clutter agreed to provide bullets to Dr. Barbara Andrews.

### **CCY Hiring Update**

Marva Younger was recently hired as a contractor and came on board August 19. The Director has stressed high priority for hiring a Program Manager 1.

### **Upcoming Events**

Youth Roundtable – December 9

King Day of Service – January

Tour de Cookie – Early June

Nancy Dworkin Awards – Late May or Early June

Several suggestions were given for a venue to host the Dworkin Awards – National Center for Children and Family (gym area); Black Rock; and Silver Spring Civic Building. The venue selected would have to be at no cost.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.